

The Epistle

TO HISSINGVLER

good freend and louing Cuntreyman,
Maister Robert Handley Citizen and Grocer of
London and Merchant Venterer into the Countreies
of Spaine Richard Gahs wisheth long life and
prosperitie to the pleasure of God and
his soules helth.



After I was giuen to vnder-
stand of your safe return from Spa-
nish soyle (moste deer and singuler
good Freend) and of your happy ar-
riuall heer into this Cittie, I was
often in hart more desirous, then in effects any
vviaesable, vwith some small tokē of my good wil
to grateulate your vwelcome home, and to shewent
I might not betouched vwith that odille vice of
Ingratitude (a vice of all men moste to be detested)
I imagined many times vwith my self vwhich vway
I might best frame myne habilitie, by vsing some
parte of remuneration for your manifolde curte-
sies (as vve vpon my self as for my sake vpon my
Freendes employed) to auoid the same, emongst
vwhich my cogitations this handfull of scribled
and bawepaper, conteyning the vvundersfull and
moste strange crueltie of Elizabeth Stile alias Roc
kingham and her associates lately at Abingdon re-
vwarded vwith the guerdō due for their demerits,
came to my mind, vwhich after I had finished albeit
at the first deeming them vvvorthy of dedication
to any: yet at the last incensed vwith the naturall
instinct



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instinct of your gentle disposition I was imholde-
ned (the rather for that that you your self haue ta-
sted of their cup of displeasure) to commend the same
beeing the first frutes of my labour to the gathering
of your loouing hands therby outwardly to shew
what the inward hart desireth if abilitie did
not want, hoping that with the moste renou-
med Persian King Artaxerxes you wil freendly
vouchsafe thankfully to receiue this handfull of colde
water, the entire cognisance of my willing
minde, offered vnto you, desiring you as leasure
may serue you thorowly with your freends to per-
use it, by reuoluing wherof if you finde any delight,
gently to thinke of the writer who wisheth you
encrease of health, welth and felicitie until the
tie that Atrapos shall cut of the thread of this your
mortall life and that after you haue passed the pace
and run the race of this short voyage and iourney
and of this brittle frail and vncōstant life you
may be placed, sociated, knit and comined in that
glittering light and blef full life of that celestiaall Je-
rusalem amongst the company of heavenly
Soules and holy minde, which lo: en-
ioy the life that only may be cal-
led life and only Emire
inuincible.

(±)

Your assured Freend in the
Lorde Richard Galis.

To the Reader.



Shou hast all ready mosle (gentle Reader begun to satisfie thy greedye eyes with the freendly suruey of the late confession of Elizabeth Stile alias Rockingham, comprehending not a handfull to the number of their deuillish pageants play ed. So perseuer still I beseech thee with no lesse good Will to peruse this true edition for thy sake and contentatiō only set forth describing the strange, cruell and diabolicall tyranny practised through the little regarde and great negligence of Magistrates in these our dayes winking at faults of the Offenders which neither regarded the pittiful plaints of the tormented, nor the continuall plagues of the Tormentors powred out day by day vpon their honest and inoecnt Neighboures, some bereft of life, some of their wits and some of the naturall course of their lims.

Amongst which I being one of the least that suffered mosle and ottnest went to prison, thought it good to set forth some parte bothe of mine owne troubles and of diuers others for thy behoof, in reuoluing wherof, if thro my hands thou expect for my philed phrase or larned stile being but misled by in a homely cuntrye Cabbin where the practise of the stagle and whip more ri
per

To the Reader.

per is then lernings loze, thou shalt greatly be deceiued. But if a plain Shepherds tale neither prophane or fained, oftner occupied in the tarbox and sheephooke, Instruments more fit for me then either pen or inck may serue thy turn: receiue thy desire. Employe therfore thy paines in perusing the same, and if any thing thou find that either presently contenteth thy minde or that hereafter prooue to thy profit: giue thanks to them (and not to me) at whose instance I framed the same, which do on in requitall of my paines:

I haue that which I doo expect. Thus farwel
gentle Reader.

R.G.



The

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The first attempt of Elizabeth Stile
alias Mother Rockingham and her confederates
Witches executed for their offences the
twentieth day of February last past practi-
sed against the Authoꝝ.



BEING AT DI-
uerse and sundry times grievously
bored, troubled and tormented as-
well in Body as in Minde, some
times in my raging fits detestling &
abhorring all Company, oftentimes again earnestly de-
siring the same, I often Imagined with my selfe
what strange disease and grief it should be that so
should (being whole in Body and not overcharged
with sickness, although exempt of perfect remem-
brance) abate my flesh and weaken my Body, and
lying in my bed forwoꝝne wth vnquiet rest, heavy wth
ouer much watchig, & desirous to vāquish my pains
by taking a little sleepe: suddainly about twelue a
clock in the night a shadowe of a huge and mightie
black Cat, appoered in my Chamber, which y^e moze
as shee approched nēer my bed side: somuch the moze
began my here to stand vpright, my hart to faint,
and my paines moze and moze to encrease, in so
much I was constrained to call for my Fathers
Gaide, to bring a Candle, wherby I might moze
clerly beholde mine Enemie which dit so euelly
intreat me, which gaide, being entred into my
Chamber: I willed to looke for y^e Cat, but she was
not to be found, neither could the light which shee
brought continue burning, at which strange sight
being amaled: the gaide being gon to bed again,
and

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and I left tumbling and tossing in my bed, moze like to dye then any longer to live, my sheets wringing wet with sweat caused through this suddain feare, I called at the last to my remembrance a Brother of mine named James Galis who about the Age off. stone yeres falling out with one Mother Dutton one of the hellish broode, and at that time suspected to be in that indeed which after ward sh^e proued was in like sorte taken in his bed, and bereft of his wits, which vntil this day are not his owne stil crying away with the Witch away with the Witch, I forsooth coniectured that the lame Cat which so amazed mee, was either some Witch or of some Witches sending and that my paines be fore and at that instance sustained was by some Witch practised vpon mee. Wherevpon knowing that prayer in all troubles and extremities was the cheefest string wheron each true Christian ought for to strike, I tooke my prayer booke wherein was conteneid aswel holosome and godly prayers as psalms, and with the brackish teares distilling from the fountaines of my eyes, I sometimes red therein, and sometime againe singing Psalmes to the honoz and glozy of God which had vouchsafed of his more mercie and godnes to strengthen me in this my afflictions, vtterly from the bottome of my hart detesting and hating in defiance all the crue of deuillish Enchaunters, wherof England at this day doth abounde. Perswading my self that God being my helper, buckler and defence, neither any Witch nor all the Devils in hel (were they in number as many as the sands in the Sea could haue once power to hurt mee, all this while not forgetting Job whose faith no plague, no cruel paine, nor veration, that ener Satan by Gods sufferance might ouer charge him with could not
any

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any wise remoue, thus as I haue said, spending & contriuing weary and painful night in prayer, Aurora began to shewe her self, whose cristall cleernes as it appeared: so began my paines to surcease, & I to be exonerated of the burthen therof, which when I felt: I caused for with the Bible to be brought mee, and incontinently I turned to the before remembred history of that iust man Job, of whose steadfast faith and milde patience when I had read and read againe, such strength in the Lorde did so abound in mee, that after that time all the plagues, mischiefs and torments practised by the said hellish Waggges against mee could not afray mee.

How the Author occasioned to walke to Cluevvorth met with Mother Dutton vvhome he (least thinking on) brought to VVindsore before the Magistrates vvwhich vvithout any examination set her at libertie.

Recouered of my græfs and by Gods deuine prouidence restozed by little and little to my former health, bearing yet in minde some parte of the said Mother Duttons dealing vsed vpon my said Brother James, and after that vpon my self, I determined hap what hap might, when conuenient leysure might serue to bring the said Mother Dutton to W indsore, before the Magistrates there, to the intent if otherwise shee could not purge herself the better of that wherewith she should be charged: shee might receiue such condign punishment as for such Offsoers by the lawes of y^e Realme was due and prouided. Which determination as it was then remembred: so in proceesse of time was it forgotten, til it fortunèd that walking one day after dinner to walke to Cluevvorth about certain my affaires which I had there to doe: shee met mee ful in the face, whose sudden meeting remouering my former intent then set in obliuio: caused mee furiously to lay holde vpon her arme, by the which without many wordes giuen I brought her to the hall a prisoner in W indsore desiring the keeper therof surly to keep her in his custody vntil commaundement were giuen him by the

Magistrates to the contrary which hee denped to do without
some speciall warrant from y^e Maior or the Justice for his dis-
charge, whereupon I led her before Maister Richard Read-
forth at y^e time Maior of Winesfor desiring him as he was
true Officer to God and to his Prince to giue his warrant to
the Taylor for the better saue keeping of this Witch hee b^o-
ught by me before him, who for her deuillish Sozceries and
enchantments cruelly practised vpon diuers honest men de-
serueth not to liue, affirming that if I could not proue her
by sufficient tryall to be a woe woorthye of plucking vp: I
would receiue such punishment as might be to all (attemp-
ting the like either against man or woman) a god ensample
but he being belike as a great number be now a dayes y^e more
pittie, and I would to God it may be amended, mistrusting
her deuillish practises and fearing least some mischief might
succed his correatio either to him or his, altogether forgetting
his oth and dutie towards God and his Prince, for the due
punishment of Offenders in y^e case had & prouided commaunded
me y^e without further delay I should let her go, which forth-
with I did no lesse bewailing her libertie then lamenting the
lack of better Magistrates to weed out such Malefactors.



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How the said Mother Dutton after her deliuey from the Authors hands by the Mayor, practised with her Associates his ouerthrowe,



After this pestilent Witch was set at libertie, shee with her Confederates perceiuing the little regard the Magistrates appointed to minister Justice, for the punishment of vice had of the complaintes made and put vp against the and greatly encouraged ther by, ceased not now to practise all kinde of meanes to bere, trouble and molest mee which because of my stedfast faith in God they could not by the selues nor by their wicked spirits execute the same vpon mee, they stirred by others to be their cruel ministers in the same.

I first procuring my friends whome nature linked in the league of loue and friendship vtterly to detest mee, shame fully to vse mee and that which græued mee moste maliciously to eniue mee, in such sorte and so long that I often times wished exchange of my lyfe for a moste hasty and speedy death, thus liuing there in exile where reason would I should haue been moste of all succoured, hated of all without cause, and loued of few, it chaunced that a friend of mine Paister Robert Handley (before rehearsed) who at that time for recreation sake making his aboade at a house of his in the cuntrie was likewise bewitched in his limmes so that he was not able to go, who suspecting his græses to come by witchcraft, caused mee to be sent for partly for friendships sake which alwayes hath been equall betwixt vs, and partly to vse that by my meanes which hee him self by reason of his græses could not put in practise, to whome when I was come after a little talke had, he tolde me that hee doubted very much least he was bewitched, wherfore (quoth hee) good R. Calis, if any spark of friendship hath euer been kindled betwixt vs: I pray thee to fetch mee a Witch, at whose sight, hope perswadeth mee I shall finde ease. At which wordes being indeed greatly moued: inwardly (as one who loued his intire friend)

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bewailing my Frānds troubles more then my owne, I wēt forth with out any word speaking, and amongst the crue of these helhounds I gat mē and within one half houre after God being my help: I brought foure before him, whose names ensue, videlicet Andrey the Distresse, Elizabeth Stile alias Mother Rockingham, Mother Dutton and Mother Denil, all which foure I caused to knaele downe before the said Maister Handley and one Maister Henry Bull Student in Physick (charging them holding a good cudgel ouer their backs) as euer they would passe thence a line, not only to tel what the said Maister Handley ayled: but also to ease him of his grāf, to whome they replied vsing many excuses, that they neither could tel him his deseale much lesse to help him therof.

Then going about to knowe how they had spent their time in the seruice of God: I examined them in the Lordes prayer, the belax and the ten Commaundements, wherin I founde them (to my great grāf) as blinde as a beetle and as wise as a Calfe, then demaunding the cause of their negligence therin, they replied that since they were bozne they were neuer taught them, neither could they finde any that would instruct them therin, and therfore it was to harde for them vpon so thort a warning to answere vnto my obiections, which replication when I heard, soze for their time so ill employed: I bzue my purse and gaue each of them a peny, charging them as they loued their owne soules helth: diligently to learn the least that they come to sōe ill end, so (said I) it can not other, wise be but that for want of thone ye must loue the other and for the lack of the grace of God, the loue of his holy word and commaundements: ye must needs serue the Denil your Lord and Maister, and there withall I bad them in God his name to departe, and in thort space after my Frēnd Maister Handley came to his olde course I mean to his former health.

Howv the same foure Witches after their departure from Maister Handley his house vvrought the Authors imprisonment and of his torments suffered during the time of his being in holde.

When

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When these foure louing Sisters were departed from my frānds house, being of me no other wise intreated or vſed then you haue heard, misdeeming (and not without good cause) that I would work their ouerthrow in time if I might be suffered, they sought by prison to a bridge my dayes, and because they themselves would be blamelesse and void of suspicion, not contented with my paines passed being now hated, abhorred and as it were spitted at of all men, and especially of my owne Parents & naturall Bretheren and brought euen to y very brink of desperation (had not God of his infinit mercy and goodnes with his mightie hand held me vp giuing me a great patience worthy to suffer his crosse laid vpon me for my offences) they caused their Familiars without the which they could not do any thing, to stirre vp and against me to incence the Maior and Burgesſes of the towne of Windsor (wherof my father whilst he liued was a chāf member) who without any offence committed, any hurt pretended, or complaint made against me, clapped me vp in Prison fast locked in a damp dūgion, into the which I was let vp and downe with a rope laden w as many gyues and manacles as either my legges could cary or my hands be able to beare, there to remain without baile, vntil their further pleasure were therein had, a crueltie more worthy for a traytor or a murderer then for any true subiect to God & to his Prince. After I was thus inclosed in y dark, depriued of all humaine company, refused to haue any bed for my money, or libertie of the Prison vpon good and sufficient bond, I then began to mistrust my self, and feared the sudain losse of my life, which easely then might haue bene depriued and with some surmised tale easely answered to the worlde, though not hid from the face of the Lord, neuerthelesse emboldened by the mightie help of God to cast away all feare and patiently to suffer my troubles: I ceased not according to my accustomed vse and to my great comfort and consolation, to sing to the honoz and prayse of God the forthie one the forthie two and the thre and forthie Psalmes, begining The man is blest that carefull is the needy consider. &c. during the execution of which crueltie: a pittiesful sound of groning voice opened the

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the gates of mine eares, and presently my yres which befoze by woꝝkemās cunning were riuerted on, making a wonderfull great noyse much like to a Smyth woꝝking of his mettall, fell of of my legges, & I taken in so straunge a race by the space of two houres, that I thought y^e soule forthwith would haue left the chariot of my mortall body. But still persueying in my prayers, I ceased not to call vpon the Lorde, not onely for my deliuerance: but also that it would please him to turne the hartes of them which had so vniustly vled their correction vpon me. In the moꝝning when it was daye, being not called to mine answer: I desired that I might be permitted to haue some cōference with Maister Doctoꝝ Day Deane of the Castell royall of Windsoꝝe, oꝝ with Maister Doctoꝝ William of the same Chappell, prebende men of great wisdom and learning, to theñtēt I might (with their opinions) be fully resoluēd of that which gnawed my conscience, which by no meanes I could obtaine, but within two dayes after called to my answer befoze the Maior and his brethren, and examined of my yꝝons falling of, I tolde them as befoze is declared, who hauing nought els to charge me with, gaue oꝝder for my deliuerāce, vsing with such extremitie their like power vpon me moꝝe then a scoꝝe of times, which here to expresse would be so long, and moꝝe tedious to the Reader, so that I was forced of my selfe to weaue the webbe of mine owne banishment, rather desirous to liue amidde the desertes of Lybia among the Sauadge and wilde beastes then in Windsoꝝe with my parentes and kinred.

How by the helpe of Syr Henry Neuell Knight, Maister Richard Warde Esquier, and other Gentlemen of vvorship, the author gat leaue to passe the seas into Flaunders, where for a time he serued vnder Captaine Morgaine.



Finding here in native soyle no place of rest to shꝛowde my carefull head but onely an ougly dungeon without light oꝝ comfort, no refuge succour oꝝ helpe, but that which straungers imparted vnto me, I imagined daily with my selfe what were best for me to do.

VVindeſor.

to do to anoyde theſe troubles daily more & more encreaſing. Sometimes muſing vpon this, ſometime vpon that, nowe deu-
niſing one thing, then by and by an other, the lamẽtable eſtate
and ſubuerſion of the lowe countrie in Flaunders, came to my
minde, whereof a whyle cõſidering, I determined to addreſſe
my ſelfe towardeſ that coaſt, there to ſpend (if not the remain-
der of my dayes) yet at the leaſt ſome part of my youthfull
yeares in the ſervice of ſome one Gentleman or other. No-
thing doubting, but that God knowing mine innocencie and
the righteouſneſſe of my cauſe, would not onely proſper my
attempt: but alſo giue me happy ſucceſſe to the ende of my
trauayles. Vpon the which point being fully perſwaded, loth
without licence. firſt of my deare father had and obtayned to
depart (neuertheleſſe his vnkinde dealinges conſidered) I
bended my ſteppes to the worſhipfull Sir Henry Beuell
Knight, who with Maiſter Richard Warde Eſquier, by waye
of humble petition, I moued to talke with my father about
the premiſſes, at whoſe impoꝛtunate and earneſt perſwaſiõs
beeing overcome, graunted their requeſtes, whereof beeing
aduertiſed ioypfull to ſee my deſier take his effect, what haſte I
made to ſet all thinges in oꝛder foꝛ my trauayle, let the iudge
that haue taſted the like diſtreſſe. In ſine armed at all aſſaies
to counteruayle my ioꝛney befoze pretended, and ready preſt
to ſet forward on my waye, a double ſozrowe began to com-
bate within mee, and therewithall a doubtfull imagination.
The one willing mee to ceaſe trauaile and enioye the preſence
of my tender parentes, and louing companions no leſſe care-
full of my health then my ſelfe, the other encouraging mee to
auoyde the dayly aſſaultes of my aduerſaries by chaunging
the ſoule to ſubmitte my ſelfe into the handes of Lady Foz-
tune. Thus trauerſing in doubtfull doubt, nowe muſing on
the one, then thinking on the other, and troubled beyond all
meaſure, what were beſt to be done: I pauſed me a while. At
the laſt overcome with deſier to procede on my iourney: I
determined to put my ſelf to y mercy of Aeolus puffing blaſts
and to the merciles waues of Neptune ſwelliing Seas.

The next day bidding my frẽds and Cuntrie farwel, I
trauiled toward London, and from thence I ſhipped my ſelfe
into

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into Ho'land whether beeing safely arriued good hap so fel out on my side that before I had spent a day or two in seeking best for my aduantage, I found vnloked for of Maister William Morgan Gentleman such gentle intertainment that I imployed all my enduour to augment my credit with him, vnder whome I spent some time on the land, some times on the seas as occasion serued as the Souldiers life desireth not rest in one place, halfe a yeres seruice.

How his Captaine leauing the Cuntry the Author was pricked vwith a loouely motion to his natieue Cuntry to make returne to his Father, vwho vpon his submission receiued him againe.

THe t'p'ozes a little before rise in Holand and in all the Cuntries there about, by valiant prowesse of martiall Knights suppressed: my Captaine (leauing the Cuntry) gaue me occasion to think of my frænes in England in the midst of all mine Enemies not forgotten, which for to se an earnest desire kindled my brest, and vanquished with loue and dutie had towards them, I made my return again to Windesoz, more to recõsile my self to my dæ'r father to whose before my departure I gaue some occasiõ of displeasure, then for any affection I bare to the towne, befoze whose Fatherly aspect, when I was approached, my outwarde teares declaring my inward græfs: I fel prostrate on my knæes and recognising my former follies, I craued meditation of forgiveness vpon my speedy amendmēt. At the which submission pardoning that which was past vpon perfozmãce of my promise moste like a louing Father receiued me again greatly ioying my safe return. Neuerthelesse desirous not to remain with him aboue th'æ or foure dayes: I departed and made my repaire to London, and in Tower Stræt became Couenant with Maister Stephen Heath a Wintner, til such time as my Father oppressed with infinit paines by meanes of this damnable sect did call me home cruelties and iniuries down and w'zought against the bzaunch could not once stanch their

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their cruell myndes, thirsting after innocent blood, without the life of my deare father, whose bitter paines diminishing his wonted strength by litle and litle caused him to yeld vnto the mercie of death, to the euerlasting grief of all that loued him, but especially to mee and other his poore children, left as sheepe without a guide to the mercie of the Woulf. Alasse what should I say: to render vnto him his due prayse, I want sufficiencie, and to make long discourse of his milde and meeke patience, wherein hee continued vnto the last houre of his gasping breath, I can not for teares and grief, wherefore against my wil I am cut of from my purpose. But thus much you shall vnderstande that no perswasions could preuaile with him that hee was bewitched, such was his strong belief in God, and yet diuerse time sighingly complaining, would say: O Lord, shall a man dye and bee not sicke: my harte is whole, and yet my inward paines consume me, and so make ly like a Lambe to the glozie of God, taking and suffering his troubles, passed the straightes of this mortall life, to lodge with Lazarus in Abrahams bosome.

Howe the Author after his fathers death abiding with his mother for her better comfort, framing him selfe to liue in the world, was preuented by the sayd witches to his utter vndoing to this daye.

My deare father by these helhoundes and Impes of the deuell, thus bereft mee, and intiered in the ground (after whom we must all hie) I determined to the comfort of my mother, sorrowing the want of her wedded make, to abyde with her, framing my selfe like a subiect to liue, and as it became an honest man to do, so long as the time of his pilgrimage geneth him leaue to abide, I went (with that litle which God and my father had left mee for my better maintenance) to buye sheepe and other cattell, whereby by due foresight and diligent taking hede: I might make retourne of my principall with some aduantage, but according to the prouerbe, hee that reckoneth befoze his host must reckon twise, and so it fell to my lot. For after I had

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stoze my self with the said Cattail moze worth at the time of their sale, then the money I paid for them, they began now one then an other and in fine almoste all to dye, and the rest lining in such a case, lest that I was constrained to take half the money they cost me gaining by them as Dickens did by his Dishes who bying five for twopence solde six for a peny, my cattail thus being consumed, and many other attempts enterprised by me, turned topsie turvie, mine olde accustomed and raging fits began to set foot within my minde I to imagin that Satrans whelps were now setting a broch the vessel of their despite to sake my utter spoyle and confusion. Wherefoze I addressed my self to the worshipfull Sir Henry Neuell knight, who sufficiently before perswaded of my troubles, and greatly with my god Lady his bedfellowe, (with whome I had often conference) pitying myne estate. I besought euen in the bowels of our Lord Iesus Chyriste that either my Aduersaries who hourelly tormented me might be cut of: or I my self to receiue the like punishment if god and sufficient proof were not on my side against them.

¶ How vpon complaints made by the Author to Sir Henry Neuell they were commaunded to be brought before him, and not beeing able to answere him in the Articles of the Christian faith, they were publikly set vnder the Pulpit,



Then which complaint after Sir Henry Neuell had aduised him self, moued with the pittfull aspect of my wildishe countenance, promise was made me that at a prefixed day he only for that purpose would come to Winesloze, and vpon due examination had, seek redresse of my troubles. At which day appointed, I posted me to the lodging of the said Sir Henry Neuell being in the Castell, there to renew the remembrance of his promise, who knowing mine errand vpon my first entrance into his Chamber commaundid me forthwith to bring them before him, at which commaundement, you may thinke I made no delay, but hastid me about my busines, & brought before

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before him as many as I suspected, which were, Andrey the
Mistresse, Elizabeth Stile, Mother Dutton and Mother
Nelson, saying, Sir I haue executed your commaundement
and brought them into your presence, which if by god and
sufficient tryall, I can not proue to be Witches: let me re-
ceiue the punishment due vnto them, at which wordes quoth
Sir Henry vnto them, what say you to this? Then his Wor-
ship further examined them in the presence of Maister Do-
ctor Wickham Maister Mullahd a Prebend of the Castell,
Maister Morris, and Maister Stafferton Gentlemen, how
and after what sorte they liued, whome they serued and how
they had imployed their time, they answered, as euery one
would in his own case the best, saying, y where they had been
suspected to be Witches & workers of mischief against their
neighbours, it was contrary and that the occasion put by a-
gainst them was rather vpon malice then otherwise. Then
said I vnder your Worships correction, if they be such god-
liuers as they make them selues to be: I beseech you to exa-
mine them in the Articles of the Christian faith, and vpon
their aunswere iudge of the rest. Then quoth Maister Wick-
ham, can you say the Lordes prayer which he hath taught
you? So forsooth quoth one, no forsooth quoth an other and
likewise the rest, vpon which replication: Maister Wick-
ham began with a moste godly protestatiō to perswade them
not only to forsake their damnable wayes afore & at that time
vsed, and diligently to learne the Lordes prayer, the be-
seef, and the ten Commaundements, but also daily for their bet-
ter instructions to haue recourse vnto the Temple of God, to
heare his deuine seruice, and for th'recution there of (because
none durst wade so farre against them as I) I was appoin-
ted ouerser, being charged that on the next Sunday fol-
lowing they should be brought to the Church, and pub-
likly in the presence of all men to be set vnder the
Pulpit during the time of Service.

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¶ Howv the said Witches were brought to the place appointed and howv Audrey the Mistresse and Mother Nelson vvith in short time after died, vpon vvhoſe death the Author felt moſte greuous torments.



Once inig ſome good hope of future redreſſe vpon theramination had before the ſaid Gentlemen of vvorſhip if otherwiſe they were not conuerted from their follie: I hied me home to my Chamber, where locking the doze to mee I fel flat on the ground rendering thanks vnto all mightie God for that it had pleaſed him of his infinit mercy to open the blinde eyes of the Magiſtrates at the laſt to looke vpon ſuch Offenders which befoze thoꝛow their negligence, nuſſed vp in all kinde of wickednes, ceaſed not day noꝛ night to oppreſſe the Inocent, (my prayer ended) I went about my buſines vntil the day was come wherein I ſhould doe my dutie, at which day I armed my ſelf in the Lord againſt the ſaid Witches, whome gently intreating moze to win their harts vnto ꝑ Lord, then for any feare I had of them: I conducted them to the Church and in the place appointed I ſet them downe, (my ſelf not ſtanding far of the) where after by the Preacher they had receiued their leſſon, and ſchooled for their lewd behauiour and idle life ſpent to no pꝛofit, but to inuent wickednes and miſchief, they departed home. Afterwards whether it were for graſ of the correction executed, or the inward gnawing of conſcience, feeling them ſelues by the Preacher touched at the quick, (I cannot tel) but vvith in ſhoꝛt ſpace after, Audrey the Miſtreſſe and Mother Nelson dyed, after vvhoſe death the ſiſters left behinde giuen ouer to their owne luſts and ſuffered to wallowe in their owne wickednes, made their aſſembly in the pits in Maſter Dodges backſide, a place where all their miſchief was pretended, and there in generally agreed either to bring me vnto my end, or liuing ſtil to ſeele a life a hundred times moze ſharpe then a pꝛeſent death, if other wiſe the ſooner I ſought not means to diſlodge my ſelf, and deſirous not to vſe any delay in furthering their intents, about their accuſtomed

houres

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houres of mæting in the night: my bed, ordained for my quiet rest became the augmentor of my griefs, and in stead of sleep I was fed with continuall watchings, caused through the extreame torturs and grievous paines sustained in the night. Thus hauing ouer passed many nights in paines, diuerse and sundry times the aforesaid Cat or the devil him self in a Cats likenes: vled to frequent and haunt my Chamber hurring and buzing about my bed, vering and troubling mee beyond all measure, in such straunge and lamentable wise, that I was enforced with my weapon lying drawn vpon my bed to keep my self waking in prayers least being overcome with sleepe: I should be strangled in my bed.



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*The Author being almost spent with grief, complaineth him
the third time to Sir Henry Neuell, before whome hee
brought the said Elizabeth Stile bound with a cart rope
on the market daye.*



Defamed with these infinite paines both in body
and purse the night assailed with a newe grief,
lothing anie longer to liue, seeing that in foure
yeres past, no reformation might be had for all
my complaintes. Leaving my careful bedde, the witnes of my
griefe and of my inwarde sorrowe: I made me ready and gir-
ding my Skene about my middle with a good cudgill in my
hande, I gate me to farnham to the house of father Rose-
man, whom furiously pulling out of his house by head and
shoulders I charged (not vsing any daliance with me) to tel-
le me my griefes. Who being agast at my dealinges, and fea-
ring least that being not able to gouerne mee in my fury,
I would strike of his head: Said, Maister you are bewit-
ched, you are bewitched, wherefore looke to your selfe, if not:
in fine you wilbe destroyed, for you haue many wicked wo-
men in Windsor, and such as doe much harme, and who
practized the like on mee once, because I did displease them.
Then I bad him tell mee what they were, who answered,
that their names were Elizabeth Stile, Mother Dutton,
and Mother Neuell, at which wordes leaving him (not alto-
gether recovered of the feare hee conceiued by mee) I went to
the sayde Elizabeth Stiles house, charging her to goe with
mee vnto Sir Henry Neuells, which squatting downe vp-
pon her buttockes, shee denyed to doe. Then finding a
Carte rope harde by, I bounde it about her myddle, and
layde the rope on my shoulder, wherewith forceably I pul-
led her out of her house, drawing her a long the streete, be-
ing on the market daye (not one daring once to helpe mee)
but a litle boye, which helde the rope by the ende) vntill
I came vnto the lodging of Sir Henry Neuell, vnto
whome in the presence of a companie of Gentlemen at that
time talking with him, I offered vp my present, saying, be-
hold

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hold here right worshipfull, I haue brought you hær a monster, which because of her feebled lymmes, is not able to goe, I haue taken paynes to drawe. When she began to curse, banne and sweare, foming at the mouth like a boze, to the great astonishment of all the beholders, which amased with that horrible sight (more for feare I thinke then for any good wyll) suffered her to escape, with the which departure (as I could not chuse bëing greatly greued) seeing that for all my complaintes made, no hope of redresse was to be looked for at the Magistrates handes: I thought nowe to vse myne owne force vppon them. Wherefore dayly frequenting my selfe to haue once a daye my recourse by their doores, I would nowe one, then an other, so kibzost with my cudgell (caried always about me for the same purpose) that in the ende getting the vpper hand, I had them in such a we, that the Scholer hauing offended, feared not so much his Maisters correction as they did my presence, as after wardes it appeared by Mother Dutton, who so sone as she had heard of my comming that waye: would haue runne and locked her selfe into a Chesse for feare.

*Howe the Author hauing occasion to be abroade
one night at the houre of their meeting, hee
saue the Denell in a Carte sitting, and
howe by the helpe of God he put him
to flight, and of other strange ac-
cidentes done by him.*

My courage nowe bëing augmented by the triumphant victorie gotten ouer myne enemies, and feeling no more tast of my passed grieffes, my busynesse so falling forth, it was my chance one night about xi. of the clocke in the night to ride by the place where these Impes accustomed vñe was to mate, to my house.

And in my waye as I was ryding, my horse layng
of a

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of a very good stomacke, suddenly stopped singing and lashing out behinde, snorting and taking on out of all measure, neither proceeding further nor retorning back, wherewith all being litle amased because it was no straunge thing vnto mee, I alighted and taking my sword drawn in the one hand, and my buckler in the other, casting myne eye aside to see if I could perceiue anie bodie stirring, I suddenly spied a most horrible sight and ougly fende sitting in a poore mans cart, like one yding to fetch in his haruest, with a payre of ries burning like the fiery flames, whose ougly shape when I behelde, falling on my knees in the middes of the dirt, I besought God to assist mee with his strength against this fende, and that through his mightie power I might get the victorie. Then rising, I went towarde the place where this good fellowe was watching for his praye. At whom (my faith lied fastly set in the Lord) I let flye with my sword, saying, auoide Satan auoide, and in the name of God I charge thee to auoide, thou hast nought to do with mee, wherfore go hunte after the Doe which hath caused thee here to sitte. At which wordes: a great light appeared round about the carte where hee sat, and therewithall an horrible sent of byrmilione was dispersed abroade, but hee was no more scene afterwarde, with the which sent Maister Aston of the Scalding house coming that waye the self same present time, thought presently to haue died, had not helpe come in the meane time.

This done, I gafe mee to my horse, vpon whose back whē I was amounted: I passed to my house as quietly as might be without harme, where not forgetting the godnesse of God towarde them that put their trust in him, I spent an howze or two in prayer. The next day being come, no lesse desirous to be reuenged of them then they were to molest mee before: Hoping still to finde a meanes to cut them off, and to weede them cleane from the face of the earth, I practised many attempts, and not so many as often executed to the intent I might be brought to some further answer, for the extirpating and pulling vp the saide wicked wades by the rootes. And because there was no Justice that would execute his office therein by the othe deirected vnto them. I determined to
proue

proue what I could doe my selfe, wherefore I gat me a pounde
of brimstone, and melted the same and dipped therein as it
melted a great drie linnen cloth, and into a houile of strawe
of mother Duttons, I thrust it whereunto I put a great fier
brande being of it selfe (the brimstone taken away) sufficient
inough to haue consumed a hundzeth times as much, which
burned vnto ashes, & strawe not once perished. An other time
likewyse, one Richard Barker standing by, hauing bought
a quarter of a pounde of gunne poulber, and as much of brim-
stone, I chose an arrowe from out of a sheafe, and thereunto I
bounde the said poulber and brimstone with stringes, making
therein a litle touchhole whereby to giue fier thereunto (whē
I thought it good) and thrust the same into an other honile ad-
ioyning to her house, fully determined to bring her together
with her house by fier to playe the last act of her tragedy, vnto
the which, with a matche set at the ende of a long sticke I
gaue fier, which arrowe albeit, it consumed to ashes, yet ne-
uerthelesse & strawe still remained without any signe of hurt
which straunge sight when I behelde, being a thing no lesse
straunge to be tolde, then harde to be beleued: I sighing, sayde
to my selfe. O Lord, what shall I doe vnto this wicked impe,
& to the rest of her confederates, whom neither fier or sword
may deuoure, neither Gods thundering threatens prouoke to
repentance. To suffer them longer to experient life in their
wickednesse, and to the ouerthrowe of their neighbours, my
hart refuseth. And still to contrine and spende my time about
it: is to my hinderance. If I complaine mee of their detestable
doings: the magistrates seame deafe, if I (as enemies to God
and their Prince) molest or vrge them: imprisonment laden
with gynes falleth out to my share. If I craue helpe of the ma-
giſtrats (my correction so affrayes them) that albeit they
would helpe, yet they dare not. Thus doe I see al hope of mans
helpe taken from mee, and all comfort bereft mee: Wherefore
I will henceforth cease and brydle my desires. And vnto thee
O Lord, which knowing the secretes of all mens hartes,
canst and wilt, when thou seest the time, rote out and pull vp
from thy good and chosen plantes such wicked graftes. To thee
(I saie) will I remitte my cause, and seeke to lodge and settle

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my selfe in some other soyle where iustice may be ministred, vice corrected, & wronges redressed. And therewithal departed to my house, from whence within fewe daies, after I had set my affaires in good order: I departed to seeke my adventures, since which time of my departure, it hath pleased God at the last to strike these wicked and detestable liuers with the rod of his correction. Who with the pot of their wickednesse so long poyzed the water of God his vengeance vpon them that at the length they were apprehended and committed to the common gaile there to remaine untill by due pzoofe of their diabollicall liuings be tried, & after triall had, receiue the Querdon answerable their demerites, where beinge sounde guiltie and conuicted of the crime objected against them: they suffered at Abingdon the sixe and twentieth daie of February last past for the same, as by the briefe and summe of their confession here ensuing, thou maist more at large perceiue.

The confession of Elizabeth Stile, alias Rockinham, a witch dwelling in Wyndesore in the Countie of Barke, declared in the gaile of Reading, in the said County in the xxxi. yere of the raigne of our most dread soueraigne Lady Elizabeth. Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland &c.

Elizabeth Stile, alias Rockingham apprehended for her witchcraft vsed in Wyndesore, and for the same brought before Sir Henry Denel Knight, was by him examined, who for that he by manifest pzoofes of her vnkinde & dishonest behauiour, sounde her an offendour vnto the Quenes Maiesties liege people, committed her to the common gaile at Reading, where she beinge examined, had (the feare of God pricking her thereunto as it seemed) some remoyse of conscience, and confessed before Thomas Kowe, the Taylour, John Knight, the Constable John Crisfith an Inholder, & one William Pyntall, of diuers as well men as women, that vsed to do much harme, by Sorcery, witchcraft, & enchantments, whose names hereafter ensue.

I First that one father Kossman alias Osborne, dwelling in Farneham in the Countie of Buckingham, and his daughter are witches, & that the said Kossman can alter & chaunge him

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him selfe into any kinde of beast that him listeth.

2 Item one mother Dutton, dwelling within Hodgkins in the parithe of Cleworth nere Windsore, can tell euery mans errand as soone as she seeth him, & worketh by a spirit in likeness of a fode which she nominateth *Palode*, and she giueth him a drop of blood in her flanke, and keepeth him alwayes in a garden in a border of grene herbes.

3 Item one mother Deuell dwelling in Windsore by the pounde, keepeth a black Cat which she nameth *Iyll*, & bleseth to carrie it in her lappe, and feedeth it with blood and milke, and *Rosimans* daughter hath a white Cat.

4 Item one mother Margaret a lame woman, going with crutches, feedeth a kittling with crummes of bread and with some of her blood, and calleth it *Iynne*.

5 Item the said Elizabeth Stile, sayth that she her self kept a Ratte, which she named *Philip*, the which she fedde with crummes of bread and blood of her right arme about the hand wrest, the place thereof not hidden, and saith, that further she with the rest hath geuen her right side to the Deuill.

6 Item this examinatur further, saith that father *Rosimond* and his daughter, mother *Margarete*, mother *Duttrō*, and her selfe, were accustomed to make their meeting on the backside of *Maister Dodges*, where they used to conferre of such their enterprises as before they had determined of and practized.

7 Item she also confesseth that mother Deuell was a poore woman, and used to go about begging of the almes of her honest neighbours, which if they did once deny her request, mischief alwayes ensued to them or to their cattel.

8 Itt she farther saith, y^e as concerning their craft & wicked practises, they haue used it vpon diuers & sundry persons, of whō one *Langford* a farmer, inhabitig in Windsore by the theāes side was one, who died therby & whose maid shortly after drunk of y^e same cup wherof the maister before had tasted.

9 Item one maister *Richard Galis Gent.* (father of the author) who in times past, & y^e thys at y^e least, as wel for his wisdom as for his polittique & good gouernment, had been Mayor of Windsore, was by their practise brought likewise to his end.

10 Itt one *Switcher* a Butcher, was serued of y^e same lawce.

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11 Item she also saith that she her self was the death of one Saddock by a clap she gaue him on the shoulder, because he brake his promise in not giuing her an olde cloke whiche he promised to doe.

12. Item that Mother Denel did ouer speake one William Foster a Fisher, and one Hil his wife a Baker.

13. Item she also confesseth that they altogether with one consent ouer spake on Humfrey Hefey and his wife, Richard Hills and John Pittingley, so that they lay euery one long time sick befoze they could recouer again their helth also and one Passline a 211. h. r

14 Item she saith that on a time a Childe (being a mans Sonne in Windsor) hurled a stone on her house wherewith being moued to anger she toke his pot from him, threatened to be euen with him, wherewithall the Child went home wardes, and in the way meeting his Father he tolde him what had happened. To whome his Father said: I haſt down ſome vnſhappineſſe to her, come with mee and I will ſpeak with her, and as they went together towards her houſe, the Childe ſubainly began to cry out Oh my hand my hand, and his Father meruailing what he ailed looking vpon his hand and beholding it turned clean out of courſe and that otherwiſe then Nature had framed it: toke it in his hand and aſſayed to haue turned it right again, but he & an other man a neighbour of his (being with him at that preſent) could not doe it, the which was holpen afterwarde by Mother Dutton,

15. Item she saith that as working the death of th'afoze named Lanchforde, Maister Calis Laukforde Maide and Suitcher the said Mother Dutton did make a picture of war and did stick a hauthorn prick as it were against the hart of it that they died shortly after, and the said pictures they conueied in a hole made for the nonce in the Chimney corner, befoze the which they set twobricks & as the war melted so the man consumed vnto death by which meanes she saith they could kilany of what degree soener.

16. Item she also saith that the said Mother Dutton did giue a picture but whether it were of man or woman she doth not

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not remember e the man that had it of her, shee thinke to be dead, and also y one George Whitting seruāt to Mathew Pain of Eaton had a picture of her self for one Foster, for that that the same George and Foster sel at words and the picture, was made in Mother Duttons house, and Mother Deuil said to her bun, spare not to plague him, thrusting a hauthorn prick against the hart of it, so y he lay at the point of death, a long time but in the end Mother Dutton recovered him again, vsing their extremitie by killing of a Colwe of his.

17 Item the said Elizabeth saith that the said Mother Dutton and Mother Deuil were the first Inticers of her to all those afore said doings, and that she and euery of them did oftentimes meet together at Paister Dodges pits and sometime at the pound about eleuen a clock at night, & that Mother Dutton and Mother Deuil did allure her to doe and exercise y craft which they them selues then and befoze vsed, and with them to forsake God and all his works and to giue her selfe to the Deuil.

18 Item shee saith that on a time shee went to olde Wilmans house and found him sitting at the root of an eke like an Ape and there talked with him long, and leaving him at her departur in the same shape, and at an other time she found him like an horse.

19. Item shee saith that shee went on a time to olde Windsore to the bedmaker to beg milk which shee could not haue because the maid was a milking but at her return shee said her Kat had prouidid bothe milk and creame.

20 Item shee confesseth that one Mother Andrey being one of the foure that sat vnder the Pulpit befoze the wed inhabiting in the Almes house was the cheef spirittuelle of them all but shee is dead.

21 Item shee saith that foure or fve of the ablest men in Windsore (if shee had been so disposed) should not haue brought her to the Gaile but that shee came of her owne accorde, for by the way as shee went with John Browne to the Gaile who was her Guide thither, her Bun came to her in the likeness of a great black Cat and would haue had her away, but

D. 19.

hoping

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heying for fauour, she banished him againe.

22 Item she also saith that their words of charme weare these, come on let vs go about it, and presently they were changed into a new shape.

To all which aforesaid Articles the said Eliza-
beth saied she would affirme, and vnto her death
truly stand to.

This is not to be forgotten that the said Mother Stile albeit
at the time of her apprehension and conduction to the Gaile
she was of perfect limme and ioint: yet neuerthelesse was
she after the said confession made, so altered and changed, by
the inchauntments of her owne Confederates: that she was
moste odiblest creature that euer man beheld, insomuch that
she was brought vpon a barrowe to her arraignment befoze
the Judges.

This is to be remembred also that amongst the Offenders
afoze said, and that at the time of their execution, Mother
Margaret being vpon the ladder and readye to playe the last
act, of her life, and committing her self to the mercie of the
law, by the which she was adiudged for her desarts to suffer
death: began to say the Lordes prayer in the which she con-
tinued til she came to these words and forgive vs our trespa-
ses &c. at which place making a stay crying out against one
Sauoye Haruy of Windesore Wiler her accuser, which then
was coming towards the place of the execution where they
all suffered to see her end, saying art thou come to cast mee a-
way: and speak to the People then standing by, mark the end
of him before this time tweluemonth, and waxing ougly to
the terroz of the Beholders she impatiently ended her life.

Finis.

The Conclusion to the Reader.



Thus hast thou heard here moste louing Reader
how much the foolish pittie and slacknes of the
Magistrates of Windesore in executing their
office, hath giuen occasion to these wicked Imps
the

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the Daughters of the Deuill, to persist in their follye, thou hast heard also remembred vnto thee what drifts of deuelish deuises since the first time of mother Duttons apprehension and brought by me before Maister Richard Redforth then Maior of Windsore, hath by them ben practised to the great hurt of the Inhabitants, their neighbours, and to thy great admiration, which if at that present had ben as thorowely sifted out as it was but wincked at, and as to late (I may say) it hath ben by some, (since those persons in the afore confession mentioned and by their enchauntments brought to their ends) not only had enjoyed their liues vntil this day: but I also a molle louing Father and they them selues an assured and stedfast rock in the time of their need, where now by their sufferance wee be depriued of bothe. But sith to call thinges long time past in obliuion to remembrance again, will but increace my griefe and renue my sorowe: I therfore will with the vale of silence couer that which my hart desired to expresse. Only I beseech the heauenly Father who is the giuer of all goodnes that this ensample past and now to all men most apparaunt, may be so printed and rooted in the harts of all Magistrates appointed for the execution of true and vpright Justice to the maintenaunce of the good and pulling downe of the wicked, that from hence forth not only all poysonous causes may be pitied, their complaints accepted, and their wronges redressed: but also that by their carefull industry and diligence employed, all Sorcerers, Witches and Charmerers may utterly be waded out from the face of the earth to the commoditie of a common welth and to the honour & glory of God, to whome be all praise, laude, dominion and power for ever and ever

Amen.